**Hardeman R-X School District**

**Safe Return to In-Person Instruction**

**And Continuity of Services Plan**



The procedures and protocols within this plan are intended to provide Hardeman R-X administration, staff, and families with information regarding the ever-changing landscape of potential COVID related concerns for the 2021-2022 school year. The contents of this plan will be reviewed in six months and revised according to the most current public health information. This document will be shared with appropriate stakeholders and all communication concerning this plan will be the sole responsibility of the administration. This will ensure the plan continues to remain current with the recommendations of the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS), Saline County Health Department (SCHD) the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

This current response plan was based on the Pandemic impacts of COVID-19 and updated for the 2021-22 school year to meet the requirements of the ***Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan*** **(SRCSP)**. Hardeman R-X experienced many successes with our 2020-2021 Return to Learning Plan as we were able to provide in-seat instruction and carry out many of our extra-curricular activities for a vast majority of the school year. Therefore, we will continue to utilize many of the characteristics of the 2020-2021 school year in order to hopefully begin the school year with the normalcy in which we ended the prior year.

Tasks assigned and delegated during each phase of the response plan, in the case of an influenza pandemic or novel virus pandemic (such as COVID-19), should be considered as possible actions and should be implemented based on the current situation and guidance from the DHSS, SCHD, the DESE, and the CDC. The Hardeman School District will work with local response partners to ensure a coordinated and measured response is taken to protect our students, faculty and community members.

Pandemic severity information provided by the CDC and SCHD should be used to help gauge the necessary level of response. Based on this information the leaders of the Hardeman School District will determine which actions in the Pandemic Plan to implement and which may be delayed.

If you have questions or concerns, or if you or someone you know should need this plan translated in a language besides English, please contact Mrs. Forrester or Mr. Vaillancourt at the school office at 660-837-3400, or you may reach Mrs. Forrester at [kforrester@hardeman.k12.mo.us](mailto:kforrester@hardeman.k12.mo.us)

# **PANDEMIC RESPONSE PLAN**

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# **Purpose of Plan:**

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This plan is intended to provide guidelines to implement a successful and coordinated response to a pandemic. The plan’s responses will reduce impact on students’ and the community’s health (i.e. reduce illness and possibly save lives) and minimize disruption to students’ education. The following response plan will be implemented after an influenza virus, novel virus (COVID-19), or resurgence of a formerly eradicated illness begins to spread readily from person to person, and it is geared toward action and specific responsibilities to be taken by the district under the direction of the authorities responsible for declaring a public health emergency.

**Response Team:**

District decisions will be based on information from SCHD, DESE and CDC recommendations.

\*Paul Vaillancourt District Superintendent

\*Kristy Forrester Principal

\*Judy Coble Health Office Aide

\*Kathy Monnig, RN District Nurse

\*Jeanne Parkhurst Special Education Coordinator

\*Steve Stewart Nutritional Services

\*Steve Stewart Custodial Services

Stakeholders also include students, parents, community members, and those representing the interests of homeless, foster care, migratory and other underserved students.

**Definitions:**

**Infectious disease outbreaks:** Disease outbreaks are usually caused by an infection, transmitted through person-to-person contact, animal-to-person contact, or from the environment or other medium. An outbreak carries the same definition as epidemic, but is often used for a more limited geographic area (i.e. community, company, facility, school, etc.)

**Epidemic:** Refers to an increase, often sudden, in the number of cases of a disease above what is normally expected in that population in that area (i.e. localized area, state).

**Pandemic:** Refers to an epidemic that has spread over several countries or continents, usually affecting a large number of people (i.e. global).

**MITIGATION STRATEGIES**

**General Health Assessment and Symptoms:**

Parents/caregivers and/or students should perform a general assessment for symptoms daily prior to arrival to school. Temperatures will be taken upon entry to the bus if there is a local area of concern as noted by the Saline County Health Department. Staff will also check temperatures throughout the day if there is a concern of illness.

***Symptoms Associated with COVID-19***

• Fever or chills

• Cough

• Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing

• Fatigue

• Muscle or body aches

• Headache

• New loss of taste or smell

• Sore throat

• Congestion or runny nose

• Nausea or vomiting

• Diarrhea

Staff and students with evidence of an acute illness or contact with a person with COVID-19 should not report to school. School staff should recognize that non-infectious conditions (e.g. asthma) and acute infections (e.g. influenza) can mimic COVID-19 in children. These conditions do not warrant isolation for the length of time as COVID-19. In cases where COVID-19 testing cannot be performed in a student with acute illness, the decision to return to school should be made by the school administrator in conjunction with the student’s medical provider.

**Hand Hygiene:**

Hand hygiene is an important step in decreasing the spread of the virus that causes COVID-19. Hand hygiene shall occur:

• Before, during, and after preparing food

• Before eating food

• Before and after treating a cut or wound

• Before and after touching (e.g. putting on or taking off) a mask

• After using the toilet

• After cleaning up a child who has used the toilet

• After blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing

• After touching an animal, animal feed, or animal waste

• After touching garbage

**Hand Washing:**

Hand Washing is an important step in decreasing the spread of the virus that causes COVID -19. Therefore, the following instructions will be reviewed with students and signage will be displayed in all restroom locations:

• Wet hands with clean, running water (warm or cold), and apply soap.

• Lather hands by rubbing them together with the soap. Lather the backs of hands, between fingers, and under nails.

• Scrub hands for at least 20 seconds. Hum the “Happy Birthday” song from beginning to end twice.

• Rinse hands well under clean, running water.

• Dry hands using a clean towel or air dry them.

An **alcohol-based hand sanitizer** that contains at least 60% alcohol can be used if soap and water are not available.

• Apply hand sanitizer product to the palm of one hand.

• Rub hands together.

• Rub the gel over all the surfaces of hands and fingers until hands are dry. This should take around 20 seconds.

**Respiratory Etiquette:**

In accordance with CDC guidelines the following measures to contain respiratory secretions will be utilized for all individuals with signs and symptoms of a respiratory infection. All staff will train and monitor compliance of students daily in proper etiquette.

* Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing or sneeze into elbow;
* Use in the nearest waste receptacle to dispose of the tissue after use;
* Perform hand hygiene (e.g., hand washing with non-antimicrobial soap and water, alcohol-

based hand rub, or antiseptic handwash) after having contact with respiratory secretions and contaminated objects/materials.

**Universal Wearing of Masks:**

Masking at this time is optional for staff, students, and visitors. The Hardeman Board of Education would like families, staff, and visitors to be able to make the decision whether to mask, or not mask their children, or themselves. Please let us know if you are in need of masks. They will be provided per request and for free. If you choose to send a mask with your child and have specific directions for usage, please communicate those to us so we can ensure your child is correctly wearing their mask. If you do not wish for your child to wear a mask at any time we encourage you to communicate this as well. Masks will be available in every classroom. If a child wants to wear one, we will allow them to do so unless you as the parent, or guardian have communicated that you do not wish for your child to wear a mask.

**Correct Wearing of Masks:**

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recommends wearing a mask that covers the nose and mouth and fits snugly against the sides of the face, as a measure to contain the wearer's respiratory droplets and help protect their co-workers and members of the general public. If you as the parent or guardian requests your child wear a mask, staff will train and monitor correct wearing of masks.

**Cleaning/Disinfecting Procedures, Maintaining Healthy Facilities and Improving Ventilation:**

Hardeman R-X will continue to provide additional cleaning in school buses, classrooms, bathrooms, hallways, and high-touch surfaces. We will continue the usage of additional custodial staffing throughout the school day to assist with additional cleaning and disinfecting.

Unfortunately, Hardeman R-X will not be making any enhancements in the area of ventilation improvements as our funding is significantly less than that of other K-8 schools in Saline County We will only be receiving $15,119 this round of funds while schools of similar size will be receiving amounts ranging from $90,961 to $188,878. Due to this disproportionate share of funds Hardeman is limited in its capacity to make such improvements. However, staff will be encouraged to keep windows slightly or fully open possible (weather dependent) to allow for fresh air.

**Physical Distancing (including the use of cohorts):**

Physical distancing and cohorting will be utilized when necessary to minimize COVID-19 exposure and assist with contact tracing should a child or staff become ill. When physical distancing is imperative and cannot be maintained, children will be kept in cohorts as assigned by the administration. If necessary, teachers, as opposed to students, will rotate between classrooms.

**Contact Tracing, Isolation, and Quarantine:**

Contract tracings, isolations, and quarantines will be facilitated in collaboration with the Saline County Health Department. The state health department will also be utilized if deemed necessary by the administration to gather more information on specific circumstances.The school and/or school staff may be notified of a COVID-19 positive case prior to the local health department. In this case, the school liaison to the health department should promptly notify the health department where the staff member or student resides to report the case. In the event of a positive case at our school, we will be working closely with the Saline County Health Department for directions on how to respond. If the illness is realized at school, we have an identified precautionary room that will be utilized for ill students until an adult arrives for pick-up. Each case is different and the guidelines to positive cases are ever changing. With our school being so small, confidentiality will be a priority.

**Diagnostic and Screening Testing:**

Hardeman R-X will not conduct any diagnostic screenings or testing. All testing will be conducted by a local health department, physicians, or clinics outside of the school setting.

**Vaccination Effort Information for Faculty and Students:**

Hardeman R-X will strive to inform staff members and district families of vaccination opportunities throughout our area. We will do so by making public via school website and/or text alert system when local clinics, drives, and other community events are being held in which vaccinations are to be administered (to include, dates, times, location and any necessary ID, health insurance, or other important information that may be required). Vaccine information will also be shared on a per request basis to our staff and district families in order to assist them in making the decisions that are best for their family. However, the district will also impress upon interested parties that they should seek advice from a trusted health official such as their family doctor or a local public health official.

**Continuity of Services**:

Hardeman R-X Alternative Methods of Instruction (AMI) Plan was recently approved. This 36 hour AMI Plan may be utilized for the 2021-2022 school year. In the event the school needs to be shut-down for cleaning and disinfecting, or we have a widespread outbreak, these days will be utilized first for virtual instruction of students. All students will have access to school-provided chromebooks or iPads, and at last enrollment, all families had proper access to the internet access. However, packets will also be an option. If a student is in isolation or quarantine, they will be provided with a computer to continue learning with their class utilizing the Google Classroom platform as long as they are feeling well enough to participate. Included will be IEP services, 504 accommodations, therapy services, response to interventions, etc. Appropriate accommodations will be provided as necessary and in alignment with services documented in dyslexia reading plans, Individualized Education Plans, and 504’s. Each student (including children with disabilities) in our district will also have appropriate accommodations to help them be successful with the health and safety policies. Accommodations could include adult support, hygiene checklists, visual charts, timer alarms, etc.

**Periodic Revision:**

The SRCSP will be reviewed and revised by the administration, Hardeman R-X Board of Education, students, parents, and community members no less than every six months.

**Resources**

COVID Missouri K-12 Guidance (Updated May 2021)<https://dese.mo.gov/media/pdf/covid-mo-k-12-guidance-update-may-2021>

Center for Disease Control and Prevention:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/operation-strategy.html>